

Message Text

SECRET

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17-12
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 DRC-01 /151 W

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R 080828Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 172
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

S E C R E T TAIPEI 6758

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, TH
SUBJECT: ROC FONMIN ASKS WHETHER US WILLING TO TAKE THAI REFUGEES
PRAPHAT AND NARONG

REF: TAIPEI 6758

1. DURING CALL BY AMBASSADOR NOVEMBER 7 IN CONNECTION WITH ANOTHER MATTER, FONMIN RAISED PRAPHAT/NARONG QUESTION, NOTING THAT PRESSURE ON ROC EMBASSY BANGKOK WAS STEADILY GROWING. RECENTLY THAI GROUP DESCRIBING ITSELF AS " REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL ELEMENTS" HAD CALLED AT ROC EMBASSY BANGKOK ASKING THAT PRAPHAT/NARONG BE EXPELLED FROM TAIWAN. GROUP LEADERS NOTED THAT WHILE ONLY 25-30 WERE IN THEIR PARTY ON THIS OCCASION, IF ROC DID NOT TAKE ACTION FORTHWITH, TWO OR THREE THOUSAND WOULD COME NEXT TIME AND "WOULD NOT BE SO POLITE".

2. SHEN STATED PRAPHAT/NARONG, WHO ARE RECEIVING THAI NEWS-PAPERS AND PHONE CALLS, UNDERSTAND SITUATION WELL AND RECOGNIZE THAT THEY CANNOT STAY INDEFINITELY, GIVEN NEED FOR GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN RTG AND ROC. SHEN EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE ANXIETY AT OMINOUS SITUATION, NOTING ROC HAS VERY MUCH AT STAKE. SHEN THEN ASKED WHETHER IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE USG TO PERMIT PRAPHAT/NARONG TO GO TO US.

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3. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT WITH THANOM IN US WE FEEL WE HAVE OUR HANDS FULL AND NOTED THAT US TOO HAS BEEN TARGET OF DEMONSTRATIONS IN BANGKOK. WHILE WE ARE SYMPATHETIC AND SHARE ROC CONCERN FOR POSSIBLE DAMAGE TO ITS RELATIONS WITH RTG AS RESULT OF CONTINUED PRAPHAT/NARONG PRESENCE IN TAIPEI, WE BELIEVE ROC SHOULD LOOK ELSEWHERE FOR POSSIBLE HOST FOR THE THAI EXILES. AMBASSADOR NOTED ROC HAS NOT PUT REFUGE QUESTION TO US OFFICIALLY AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ROC WOULD NOT IN FACT DO SO. HE MENTIONED THAT IF SWITZERLAND MUST BE RULED OUT, ROC MIGHT WISH TO SOUND OUT SOME REMOTE THIRD COUNTRY WITHOUT ANY PARTICULAR TIES WITH THAILAND, PREFERABLY EVEN WITHOUT EMBASSY IN BANGKOK, WHICH MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT PRAPHAT/NARONG. IN THIS CONNECTION HE INFORMALLY MENTIONED PARAGUAY AND PERHAPS SOME CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES AS PROSPECTS. SHEN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD US POSITION.
MCCONAUGHY

SECRET

NNN

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